Challenge to Indo-Nepal Peace Treaty

397. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Shri Yoginarayan Harinath, an eminent Scholar from Nepal, is visiting Shri Subhash Ghishing, Chairman of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in India off and on;

(b) whether the said Shri Yoginarayan Harinath is trying to break Indo-Nepal friendship by challenging Indo-Nepal Peace Treaty, 1950, in High Court of Nepal; and

(c) whether Government will agree to take action to curb such anti-national activities on Indian soil and also take action against persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. It is reported that one Yogi Narharinath had visited Kalimpong, Gangtok-Darjeeling from May 3—11, 1998 and met Shri Subhash Ghishing, Chairman of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

(b) It is reported Shri Yogi had filed a petition in the Nepal Supreme Court on July 15, 1997 claiming that some territory stretching from Tista in the East to Kangra in the West coded to British India under the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli should be restored to Nepal since the said Treaty had been superseded by the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal. The matter is presently under examination in the Supreme Court of Nepal.

(c) A close watch is being kept on such activities in close cooperation with the concerned authorities.

Modernisation of tools of internal security for Assam

398. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to extend assistance to Assam Government in augmenting and modernising tools of internal security and mechanism to fight insurgency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Central Government is providing assistance to the Government of Assam for improving its policing infrastructure. Under the special scheme for modernisation of police forces in North-Eastern States, 197 Maruti Gypsy King vehicles, 70 Tata 407 trucks, 45 Tata 709 trucks, 1020 SLRs, 1270 carbines and 500 pistols, besides ammunition, were provided to the Assam Police during the year 1997-98. 40 of the above vehicles have been bullet proofed. Under the general scheme for modernisation of State police forces, an amount of Rs. 47.72 lakhs approximately was released to the Government of Assam during last year, *i.e.*, 1997-98. An amount of Rs. 95.43 lakhs has been allocated to the State during the current year.

Allegation of former Chief Justice of India

399. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an inquiry into the allegation by former Chief Justice of India, J.S. Verma, that a certain individual pressured him on the hawala case;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to available information, the then Chief Justice of India had made certain oral observations, without naming anybody, in connection with this matter. There was no direction from the Supreme Court to conduct any enquiry.